

1 Amendments to the Claims:

2 Please cancel claims 9 and 17-20, without prejudice.

3 Please amend claims 1, 4-6, 8 and 10-15, as indicated below.

4 Claim 1 (currently amended) An apparatus for electrically connecting two objects
5 together, comprising:

6 a first object which has a first connective surface defined thereon;

7 a pluralityrow of first electrical padscontacts supported on the first connective
surface;

8 a second object which has a second connective surface defined thereon;

9 a pluralityrow of second electrical padscontacts supported on the second
connective surface and configured to contact the first electrical padscontacts; and,

10 a guide that allows wherein the first and second objects are further configured to
11 be placed adjacent to one another in facilitation of electrical connection
12 therebetweenelectrically connected to each other by substantially constraining
13 movement of the first object relative to the second object into a given direction and along
14 a continuous path of movement which is substantially parallel to the row of first
15 connective surfaceelectrical contacts.

16 Claim 2 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the path of movement is
17 substantially straight.

18 Claim 3 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the first and second
19 connective surfaces are substantially flat.

20 Claim 4 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the first and
21 second objects are further configured to be subsequently electrically
22 disconnectedmoved away from each other by movement of the first object relative to the
23 second object along the path of movement in any one of a plurality of directionsthe given
24 direction.

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the guide
2 comprises:

3 ~~the first connective surface forms an open-ended trough defined on the first~~
~~connective surface; and,~~

4 ~~the second connective surface forms a ridge which is defined on the second~~
5 ~~connective surface and which is configured to matingly engage the trough when the first~~
6 ~~and second objects are placed adjacent to one another in facilitation of electrical~~
~~connection therebetween electrically connected.~~

7

8 Claim 6 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising an
9 alignment member which is movably supported on the second object and which is
10 configured to engage the ~~second~~first object when moved so as to substantially align the
11 first electrical ~~pads~~contacts with the second electrical ~~pads~~contacts in order to facilitate
contactelectrical connection therebetween.

12

13 Claim 7 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the first and second
14 connective surfaces are substantially parallel and in juxtaposed relation when the first
and second objects are electrically connected.

15

16 Claim 8 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, and wherein the first electrical
17 ~~pads~~contacts are ~~configured to be~~ resiliently flexible, and are ~~further~~ configured to be
deflected when the first and second objects are electrically connected.

18

19 Claim 9 (cancelled):

20

21 Claim 10 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 95, and wherein, the first and
22 second objects are ~~further~~ configured such that the ridge and the trough can be
disengaged by movement of the first object relative to the second object along the path
23 of movement in ~~any of a number of directions~~the given direction.

24

25 Claim 11 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 95, and wherein the ridge and
the trough are substantially parallel to the path of movement.

1 Claim 12 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 91, and further comprising an
2 alignment member which is movably supported on the second object, and wherein:

3 a first cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to
4 contact the first object during movement of the alignment member so as to substantially
5 align the first objectelectrical contacts with the second electrical contacts in a lateral
6 direction that is substantially normal to the path of movement; and,

7 a second cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to
8 contact the first object during movement of the alignment member so as to substantially
9 align the first objectelectrical contacts with the second electrical contacts in a fore-and-
10 aft direction that is substantially parallel to the path of movement.

11 Claim 13 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 126, and wherein the alignment
12 member is further configured to engage the first object so as to substantially lock the first
13 and second objects together.

14 Claim 14 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 9, and further comprising an
15 alignment member which is movably supported on the second object, and wherein a first
16 cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to contact the first
17 object during movement of the alignment member so as to cause substantial alignment
18 of the first objectelectrical contacts with respect to the second object electrical contacts
19 in a lateral direction that is substantially normal to the path of movement;

20 Claim 15 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1412, and wherein:

21 a second cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to
22 contact the first object during movement of the alignment member so as to cause
23 substantial alignment of the first object with respect to the second object in a fore-and-aft
24 direction; and,

25 a third cam surface is defined on the alignment member and is configured to
resiliently deflect the second electrical padscontacts during movement of the alignment
member so as to selectively cause the second electrical padscontacts to contact the first
electrical padscontacts after engagement of the ridge and troughsubstantial alignment
thereof.

1 Claim 16 (original): The apparatus of claim 15, and wherein the third cam surface is
2 further configured to move independently with respect to the first and second cam
3 surfaces.

4 Claims 17-20 (cancelled).

5
6 Claim 21 (new): The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising an alignment member
7 which is movably supported on the second object, and wherein a cam surface is defined
8 on the alignment member and is configured to contact the first object during movement
9 of the alignment member so as to substantially align the first electrical contacts with the
10 second electrical contacts in a fore-and-aft direction that is substantially parallel to the
11 path of movement.

12
13 Claim 22 (new): The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising an alignment member
14 which is movably supported on the second object, and wherein a cam surface is defined
15 on the alignment member and is configured to resiliently deflect the second electrical
16 contacts during movement of the alignment member so as to selectively cause the
17 second electrical contacts to contact the first electrical contacts after placement of the
18 first and second objects adjacent to one another.

19 (Continued on next page.)